LIBRARY

WESTHOUGHTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1 9 4 9.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

WESTHOUGHTON.

August, 1950.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
WESTHOUGHTON.

August, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Health Committee.

I beg to submit the Annual Report upon the Health of the District for the year 1949.

It follows similar lines to those of the immediately previous years in conformity with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

E. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

AREA OF THE DISTRICT - 5,560 acres.
CENSUS POPULATION, 1931 - 16,018.
ESTIMATED POPULATION 1949 - 14,940.
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES AT END OF YEAR - 4,587.

VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	M.	F.		
Live Births	Legitimate	192	93	99		
	Illegitimate	5	1	4	Birthrate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1949.	13·2
	Total	197	94	103		
Stillbirths		9	4	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	43·2
Deaths		164	82	82	Deathrate per 1,000 estimated population	11·0

Deaths from puerperal causes.

	Deaths	Deathrate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
Puerperal & post-abortive sepis	Nil	Nil
Other maternal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Deathrate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	36
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	21
Deaths from Measles " "	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

Population for Birth-rate & Death-rate - 14,940.

Per 1,000 of estimated population	Live Birth rate	Crude Death rate	Deathrate from Tuberculosis of respiratory system	Deathrate from Cancer	Rate of deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 live births
Mean of 5 years 1944 - 1948	16·6	12·2	0·21	1·64	41
1948	15·1	11·3	0·20	1·87	17
1949	13·2	11·0	Nil	1·41	36
Increase or decrease in 1949 on :-					
(1) 5 yrs average 1944 - 1948	-3·4	-1·2	-0·21	-0·23	-5
(2) Previous year	-1·9	-0·3	-0·20	-0·46	+19

Maternal Mortality Rate	per 1,000 live Births	per 1,000 total (live & still) births
Mean of 5 yrs. 1944 - 1948	3·32	3·17
1948	Nil	Nil
1949	Nil	Nil
Increase or decrease in 1949 on :-		
(1) 5 yrs average 1944 - 1948	-3·32	-3·17
(2) previous year	Nil	Nil

The birthrate (13·2) continued its decline and was well below the rate for England & Wales (16·7).

The death-rate (11·0) compared with a rate for England & Wales (11·7) showed an improvement on 1948.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District is supplied with water by Bolton Corporation, which is filtered and treated before going into supply. All dwellinghouses are supplied direct from the mains. Frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations are made by Bolton Corporation. Six examinations were made of the water as received at terminal points in the area.

No. of bacteriological examinations 6 Result - Satisfactory

No. of chemical examinations Nil

No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination. No liability to plumbo-solvent action.

DRAINAGE

There have been no important extensions or alterations in the general scheme.

HOUSING

In common with surrounding areas, lack of houses is of paramount importance. There were, at the end of the year, 494 names on the Council's list of applicants and of these about 321 were living in lodgings. This is an increase of 29 over the previous year and emphasises the magnitude of the housing requirements, apart from the increasingly urgent needs to take some action in respect of unfit houses.

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

	Prefebricated houses		Traditional permanent houses
	Temporary	Permanent	
(i) By the local authority	-	-	63
(ii) By other local authorities	-	-	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	-	-	3

SANITARY INSPECTIONS

A total of 3,883 premises were visited and 680 defects or nuisances discovered, necessitating the serving of 226 Informal Notices and 18 Statutory Notices. It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings.

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :-

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	120
Number of inspections made for the purpose	634
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	120

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority.	94

Action under statutory powers during the year.

1. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	7
Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	4
(b) By local authority in default of owners	-

Action under statutory powers during the year. cont'd.

2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied -

Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners -
(b) By local authority in default of owners -

INFESTATION

Five houses were found infested with bed bugs of which three were disinfested by use of insecticide (5% D.D.T. spray) and one with H.C.N.

FOOD INSPECTION

The 74 producer-retailers of milk in the town have been regularly inspected and the milk examined for bacteriological cleanliness. A total of 253 samples were submitted for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli - 9 were confirmed as positive and the necessary action completed by the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Inspector. Of a further 232 samples taken, 153 attained the accredited milk standard and 79 were unsatisfactory.

Raw cow's milk is obviously not a safe food for children and should always be boiled before comsumption.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on register	Inspections	Notices
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities	10	20	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	75	142	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	6	1
Total	88	168	1

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	7	7	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Inneffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) insufficient	4	4	-	2
(b) unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-
Total	11	11	-	2

There are no Outworkers employed in the District.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was necessary under Section 47 of this Act.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified.

Scarlet Fever

During the year 23 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and of these it was necessary to treat 6 in hospital on account of reasons of public health. The disease continued to be mild with few complications and no deaths.

Diphtheria

No case of Diphtheria was notified.

Measles and Whooping Cough

During the year 53 cases of Measles and 4 of Whooping Cough were notified. The Measles were mild and there were no deaths.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIO-MYELITIS

The one isolated case ocurred on the District's Boundary and made a complete recovery.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The responsibility for this service is now that of the County Council and I am indebted to the Divisional Medical Officer for the following statistics.

Number of children completing immunisation during year :-

Under 5 years of age	173
Over 5 years of age	34
Total	207

Number of children receiving reinforcement doses - 188

The immunisation state of the children at the end of the year was :-

Under 5 years of age	53%
Over 5 and under 15 years	82%

VACCINATION.

Since July 1948, the provision of vaccination has been included in the Personal Health Services to be given by the General Practitioner and the consequent end of the service of the Public Vaccinator. With the repeal of the Vaccination Acts, 1867 to 1907, vaccination is no longer compulsory.

The results of this change are shown in the accompanying table :-

Primary Vaccination				
Under 1 year.	1-5	5-15	Over 15 years	Total
3	1	1	1	6
Re-vaccination				
Nil.				

Out of 197 Live Births, only 3 babies were vaccinated, and whilst no effects may be evident for several years it is feared that much personal misery or at least inconvenience will arise in later years.

The only known way of preventing or treating Smallpox is by vaccination and there may well come a time when for all-important reasons e.g. contact with a case of Smallpox, foreign travel or military service, vaccination becomes a necessity. Vaccination in infancy generally causes little upset and no real personal inconvenience, but as is well known, primary vaccination in the

adult can sometimes cause a sufficiently severe reaction as to require rest in bed often at a most inconvenient time. All this can be avoided by arranging for infant vaccination at about the third month which will confer an immunity againts Smallpox for several years and enable re-vaccination to be carried out without much disturbance.

The steadily increasing number of unprotected children will become a matter of great concern to all Public Health Authorities in the event of the introduction of an unrecognised or missed case of Asiatic Smallpox.

WESTHOUGHTON URBAN DISTRICT

Causes of death during the year 1949.

Registrar General's Return

Causes of Death	Males	Females
Measles	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Influenza	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-
Other Tuberculosis	-	-
Cancer	10	11
Diabetes	-	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	11	13
Heart Disease	25	25
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	1
Bronchitis	3	7
Pneumonia	4	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1	-
Appendicitis	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	-	2
Nephritis	1	3
Acute Polio-myelitis & Polio-encephalitis	-	-
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	-	-
Maternal Causes	-	-
Con. Debility, Premature Birth etc.	3	2
Suicide	1	-
Other Violence & Road Traffic Accidents	3	1
Other defined causes	10	9
Total	82	82

TUBERCULOSIS. New cases and Mortality during 1949.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1		1		1				
5				1				
10								
15								
20		1						
25	2							
35	1							
45								
55								
65 and upwards								
	3	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Total	5		2		Nil		Nil	

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1949. (Notified cases only)

	Cases Notified										Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital
	Total cases all ages	Under 1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over		
Smallpox												
Scarlet Fever	23		1	7	10	5						6
Diphtheria												
Para-Typhoid												
Measles	53	2	16	18	15		2					
Whooping Cough	4	1	2	1								
Pneumonia	5			2				1	2		10	
Acute Polio-myelitis	1					1						1
Cerebro-spinal Fever												
Encephalitis Lethargica												
Ophthalmia Neonatorum												
Erysipelas	1								1			1
Total	87	3	19	28	25	6	2	1	3	-	10	8